

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the below claims as indicated.

1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of (R)-1,2-propanediol ~~which is characterized in, comprising:~~ cultivating a microorganism belonging to the genus Pseudomonas or genus Alcaligenes which ~~has ability to assimilate~~ assimilates (S)-1,2-propanediol as a single carbon source, ~~and to grow in a cultural medium containing a racemic 1,2-propanediol as a single carbon source~~ in a culture medium containing racemic 1,2-propanediol as a single carbon source or a complete synthetic medium containing racemic 1,2-propanediol as a single carbon source, wherein the microorganism stereoselectively assimilates ~~assimilating~~ (S)-1,2-propanediol; and then isolating the remaining (R)-1,2-propanediol from the culture broth.

2. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the microorganism is Pseudomonas sp. DS-SI-5 (Deposit No.: FERM BP-7080).

3. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the microorganism is Pseudomonas nitroreducens DS-S-RP8 (Deposit No.: FERM BP-7793).

4. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the microorganism is Alcaligenes sp. DS-S-7G (Deposit No.: FERM BP-3098).

5. (Original) Pseudomonas nitroreducens DS-S-RP8 (Deposit No.: FERM BP-7793).

6. (New) The process according to claim 1 wherein the culture medium is a complete synthesized medium containing racemic 1,2-propanediol as a single carbon source.